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NAVH-1663

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MICROFILMED: 4 AUG 1960

Chief of Mission, Vienna

Chief, EE

Info: Chief of Base, Salzburg

Operational/HIMAY

Ferenc KOZMA Operation

Re: DIR 13193

1. It has occurred to us that neither Vienna nor Salzburg may have notes on the operation mentioned in paragraph 4 of the reference.

2. The principal figure in this operation is Ferenc KOZMA, Chief of the MHRK in Belgium, who has acted as contact man between the [Belgians] and the ZAKO group for some time. So far as we can determine, the relationship between the MHRK and the [B] has been a rather informal one involving, perhaps, an exchange of MHRK intelligence reports for Belgian documentation and other local support. Evidently, KOZMA was approached and recruited by the AVH in Brussels sometime during 1949 and was promptly doubled by the [B]. The AVH has been primarily interested in information on the MHRK and on Hungarian refugee matters in general. Andras ZAKO is aware of the case and cooperates with the [B] to the extent of providing KOZMA with letters and other incidental information which is passed to the AVH. KUBARK has not passed deception material to the [B] for this operation and, in fact, we have advised the [B] to allow KOZMA to report fully and freely to the AVH on the MHRK, as we consider this to be an overt organization which is undoubtedly penetrated at a number of other points. One rather unusual element was introduced when NOVACS asked KOZMA recently to establish coverage of Polish refugees in Belgium. We are not able to explain why the AVH is interested in refugees of other nationalities and will appreciate [] comments on this, and whether this was done during his service with the AVH. (Note Vien-0443 and Pari-0926 for other indications of AVH interest in things Polish.)

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Δ: BELGIUM

CIT: HUNGARY

CIT: HUNGARY

REPORTING

AVH CASE

OFFICER

OPERATING

IN BELGIUM

3. Through surveillance, the [B] have been able to identify Zoltan KOVACS and other AVH case officers who preceded him in the KOMA operation, including Josef TELER who, as you know, was transferred from Brussels to Paris. The [B] have also learned that Laro BORSANYI, Charge d'Affaires of the Hungarian Legion in Brussels, works closely with KOVACS. In fact, he is usually lurking just around the corner during KOVACS' meetings with KOMA, and KOVACS often leaves KOMA for several minutes to consult with BORSANYI.

ZOLTAN KOVACS, AVH CASE OFFICER OPERATING IN BELGIUM

4. Until rather recently, the [B] collaborated with JAVELIN on the KOMA double case and passed JAVELIN reports on all of his meetings with the AVH case officer. Late last year, the relationship between the [B] and the JAVELIN case officers in Brussels deteriorated to the point where JAVELIN was cut out and our own [B] brought in. Liaison between the two services continues, however, and we cannot be sure how much JAVELIN knows of this or other joint KUBARK-[B] operations.

5. We are forwarding, as an attachment under separate cover, a report on KOMA's meeting with KOVACS on 25 May 1953. The contrast between the instructions KOVACS gave KOMA on that occasion and those given [B] may be significant, as KOVACS quite patently went to great lengths to conceal the seriousness of the compromise and to avoid alarming KOMA. Combined with [B] comment in NAVW-1139 to the effect that the AVH may not be aware he knew of this operation, it appears quite likely that the AVH will resume contact with KOMA. This corrects the assumption made in paragraph 3 of DIR 15133. We are still of the opinion, nevertheless, that an approach to KOVACS is desirable, all other factors being equal. If the approach is successful, the debriefing of KOVACS should be far more valuable than the continuation of KOMA as a double. If it fails, our approach to KOVACS should not necessarily compromise KOMA, if the AVH assumes, as seems likely, that [B] did not know the particulars of cases KOVACS was handling.

VENUS comment
the [B]

6. We will be happy to provide Vienna and Salzburg with further details on this case, if you feel they would be of assistance.

Attachments (2)
KOMA-522 Att. A

26 July 1953

Distribution
3 - Vienna w/att (1)
1 - Salzburg w/att (1)
1 - []

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